

**Testimony**  
**House Bill 1116 – Department of Human Services**  
**House Judiciary**  
**Representative Koppelman, Chairman**  
**January 15, 2013**

Chairman Koppelman, members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Director of Field Services for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1116.

House Bill 1116 would remove DHS regional human service centers (HSCs) from the statute as providers of court-ordered fitness to proceed examinations.

Currently, a court may order the detention of a defendant for the purpose of an examination by a psychiatrist or a license clinical psychologist. This detention must be in the least restrictive appropriate setting, including the State Hospital at Jamestown, the Developmental Center at Grafton, or other suitable facility for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days, in order to allow for the fitness to proceed examination.

The DHS is asking for the removal of the regional HSCs from the statute, as the current practice is for these examinations to be completed at the State Hospital or the Developmental Center. The State Hospital with four licensed clinical psychologists and the Developmental Center with one licensed clinical psychologist have the most expertise, resources and time to perform these examinations. In addition, the institutions have the greater capacity to address the concerns of safety and security that are often required for these individuals.

This same expertise, resources, time, and security do not currently exist at the regional HSCs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.

